ERI-CHAN
ARE YOUR CLOTHES GETTING A BIT SMALL?
NO, THE ONES I HAVE NOW ARE FINE.
I BET YOU'LL WANT NEW ONES BY THE TIME THE AUTUMN BREEZES START TO BLOW.
BUT YOU'RE A GROWING GIRL.
BEING STUBBORN WON'T STOP THE TIME FROM PASSING

...I DON'T NEED ANY NEW THINGS.
splash
NOT EVEN A NEW MOTHER?
Miyako-san is my mother's little sister. It looks like she's going to marry my father through "koburiawase."

She's the spitting image of my late mother.
koburi awase
ueda hiroki

A WHITE
GHOST.

IT LOOKS CARELESS WHEN YOU LEAVE THE WHITE LINENS OUT AT NIGHT.
DID YOU FORGET TO DRY THEM DURING THE DAY?
ERI-CHAN.
WELCOME HOME I WAS WORRIED-- IT'S LATE
.....

I'M NOT A MEMBER OF THIS FAMILY YET.
... HOW MEAN.
...YOU'RE AROUND MY AGE, MIYAKO -SAN.
ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT MARRYING MY FATHER?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M TWO YEARS OLDER THAN YOU

MY PARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES HAVE ADVISED ME TO MARRY HIM.
YES,
AND MY SISTER TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU---
...THEN
YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE INSIDE THIS HOUSE UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE, BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS AND RELATIVES TELL YOU SO?
I'VE KNOWN YOUR FATHER FOR A LONG TIME,

YES,
I AM.
IT'S
THAT SIM-PLE ...?
I CAN'T DISOBEY MY PARENTS
THIS IS STILL HOW MARRIAGES ARE DONE HERE
FAMILY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.

THIS CAT ...
CLICK
IS JUST LIKE YOU.

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY THIS...
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS HOUSE, MIYAKO-SAN

LIFT
...I
MY SKIN LOOKS BURNT WHEN IT'S BEEN HIT WITH STRONG SUNLIGHT.
PRICKLE
PRICKLE
PRICKLE
CAN'T BE OUT IN THE SUN. I GET A TERRIBLE RASH.

I CAN'T GO OUT DURING THE DAY.
I'M LIKE A GHOST, HUH?
BUT
MY PARENTS AND RELATIVES HAVE PROTECTED ME FROM THE DAY I WAS BORN.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR THEM, I'M GLAD.
but I do know everything about this house
I can't live outside

The contrary clock.
The hiragana characters camellia teacups my grandmother gave us,
and the shine of the lacquered chopsticks.
The slightly frightening six-foot stairway with the third step slightly out of place.
The smell of the dirt floor when it gets damp.
The sound of the corridors in the winter.
IT'S AN OLD HOUSE, BUT NOT A BAD ONE.
I HOPE YOU'LL LIKE IT HERE.
PONKO WELCOMES YOU, TOO
THOUGH THE HIGH ELECTRIC BILLS ARE A BIT OF A PROBLEM.
mmo

totter
totter
...I
HAD A CAT ONCE, TOO.
I PAMPERED IT AND NEVER WANTED TO LET IT GO OUT.

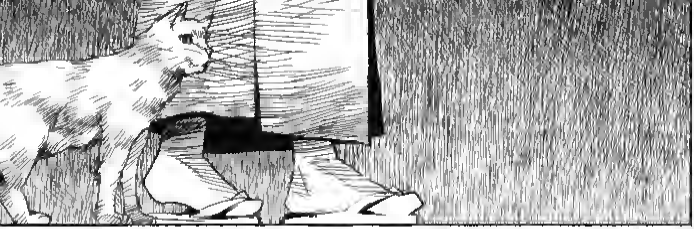
THE DAY OUR TOWN BURNED, MY MOTHER WENT TO LOOK FOR MY CAT
AND NEVER CAME BACK.

THE CAT
WAS HUDDLED UP, STIFF BETWEEN THE WALL AND THE CHEST OF DRAWERS

THE FIRE MUST HAVE DRIVEN IT INTO A CORNER.
I'M SURE IT WANTED TERRIBLY TO GO OUTSIDE-- IT MUST HAVE BEEN IN SO MUCH PAIN.
BUT BECAUSE I HAD SHUT IT UP INSIDE THE HOUSE.
IT HAD NOWHERE TO RUN...

I DIDN'T EVEN UNDER-STAND THAT.
I LOST BOTH OF THEM, AND IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.
AND YET I TOOK IT OUT ON YOU...

I'M REALLY JUST A SELFISH CHILD. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING....



MY MOTHER?
I WAS ALWAYS PESTERING MY SISTER TO TELL ME ABOUT YOU.
YES.
I LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING YOU FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
YOU MUST BE DISAP-POINTED, THEN.

GOOD-
NESS,
NO...

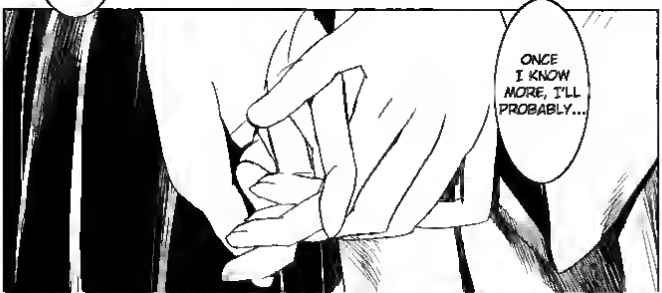
I MIGHT GET THE CHANCE TO BE MOTHER TO A GIRL
WHO SHINES WITH A SOFT LIGHT, AND SHEDS PRETTY TEARS WHEN SHE'S HURT.

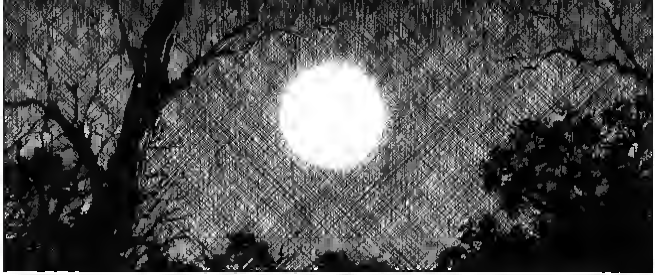
...BUT PERHAPS YOU DON'T WANT ME?

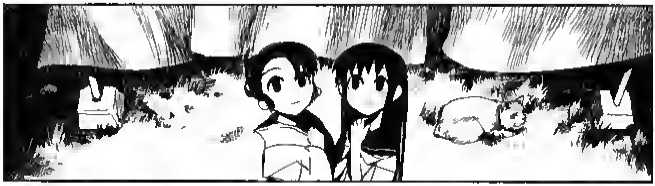
NO, I DO... BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND THIS.
I JUST ...
I JUST THINK IT'S WEIRD.
OH?
BUT I LOVE YOU, ERI-CHAN.
I WANT YOU FOR MY CHILD.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

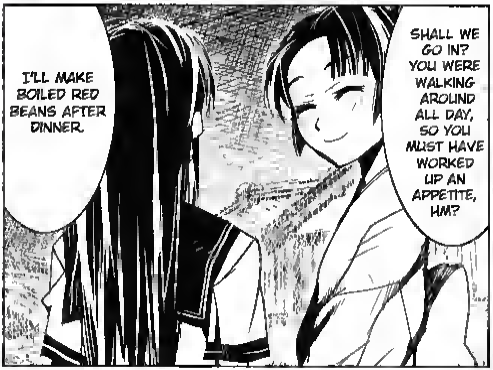
I DON'T KNOW...
BLUUUUSH
I... I DON'T KNOW.
..SO

AND PONKO, AND YOU.
I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS HOUSE,


ONCE I KNOW MORE, I'LL PROBABLY...






I'LL MAKE BOILED RED BEANS AFTER DINNER.
SHALL WE GO IN? YOU WERE WALKING AROUND ALL DAY, SO YOU MUST HAVE WORKED UP AN APPETITE, HM?

YAWN

REALLY?

gnowl
It-
IT'S YOUR FAULT, MIYAKO -SAN
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY MOTHER.

OH, MY.
AND I GET HUNGRY WHEN I LOOK AT MY "MOTHER'S" FACE
END

creative
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つぼみ

あまくてやさしい、百合アンソロジー

vol.2

玄鉄絢
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関谷あさみ
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